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(N.E.)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant: N. Aoyama  
Serial No.: 09/376,651  
Filed: August 18, 1998  
TITLE: FEED ASSISTANCE MEMBER AND A MEDIUM PROCESSING APPARATUS

Examiner: Cone, D.  
Group Art Unit: 2854  
Docket No.: JA9-98-073

10-12-00  
L. Spruell

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on September 28, 2000.

David W. Victor

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

RECEIVED

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

OCT 10 2000

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Final Office Action, dated July 6, 2000 in which the Examiner rejected all the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of DeFalco (U.S. Patent No. 5,088,848). Applicants traverse the rejections and submit the pending claims 1-17 are patentable over the cited art.

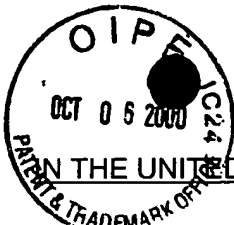
IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended Twice) A feed assistance apparatus arranged in a feed path of a medium to be processed in a medium processing apparatus, said feed path including at least one [feed] align roller of non-circular cross section for feeding said medium, said feed assistance apparatus comprising:

a roller portion contacting said medium being fed to increase a frictional force generated on said medium; and

a shaft portion supported in a bracket and disposed through said roller portion, wherein said roller portion rotates around said shaft portion so as to move by the thickness of said medium, [and] wherein the shaft portion is not rotably connected to the [feed] align roller, and wherein the roller portion is not vertically aligned with any roller.

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JA998073  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: N Aoyama )  
Serial No.: 09/376,651 )  
Filed: August 18, 1999 )  
For: FEED ASSISTANCE MEMBER AND A )  
MEDIUM PROCESSING APPARATUS )  
Examiner: Cone, D )  
Art Unit: 2854 )

Box: AF  
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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OCT 10 2000

Sir:

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment in the above-identified application.

- ☐ Small entity status of this application under 37 CFR 1.9 and 1.27 has been established by a verified statement previously submitted.
- ☐ A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 CFR 1.9 and 1.27 is enclosed.
- ☐ No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

	(Col. 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	(Col. 2) HIGHEST NO PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Col. 3) PRESENT EXTRA RATE	SMALL ENTITY ADDIT. FEE	OR	RATE	OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY ADDIT. FEE
TOTAL	17	MINUS 20	= 0	x \$0	OR	x 18	\$0
INDEP CLAIMS	3	MINUS 3	= 0	x \$0	OR	x 78	\$0
			TOTAL	\$0	OR	TOTAL	\$ -0-

- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0585 the amount of \$\_\_\_ to cover the extension fee and also the amount of \$\_\_\_ to cover the claim fee. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$\_\_\_ to cover the extension fee is enclosed.
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$\_\_\_ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$\_\_\_ to cover the petition fee is enclosed.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. No. 50-0585. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☒ Any filing fees under 37 CFR 1.16 for the presentation of extra claims.
- ☒ Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

  
David W. Victor

Dated: September 28, 2000

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David W. Victor

9/28/00  
Date